Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Current Topics Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF COLD PORK.

From the N. Y. Tribiene About eleven years since, a legitimate answer to the popular conundram, "What makes more noise than a pig under a gate?" would have been, that international pig in San Juan Island. And, strange to say, it was dead before it began to make a noise. This was the way of it: An exasperated Yankee settler shot the trespassing pig of a Scotch-man, and the Scottish Shylock, unwilling to accept double the value of the animal in return, must needs have his pound of flesh; and, getting officer and warrant from Vancouver's Island, would have impounded said Yankee in some Vancouverian British bastile, had not the latter threatened the same process with the officer which had previously

proved so effectual with the pig.

The Yankee denied British jurisdiction over that island, and proposed resistance vi et armis. He was not arrested; and the impulsive Harney sent over a company of troops to protect the interests of American citizens on the island. The authorities of Vancouver protested, and two or three British ships of war anchored off San Juan, but did not venture to fire upon the American troops encamped within short range of them. little international breeze at once blew up between this country and Great Britain, which bade fair to brew into a storm, until the pacific and paternal old General Scott was sent over to settle matters. He did it with a patched-up plan for the joint military occupation of the island, which, for want of a better, has sufficed up to this time.

The question of the right of possession to San Juan is not a complicated one. The physical situation is this: - The British island of Vancouver, curving along the coast line from the northwest as if it were a huge marine monster, seems to have bitten and swallowed a large mouthful of land out of the northwest corner of the United States territory. The island of San Juan, and several others occupying the straits between, appear like crumbs dropped from the mouth of Vancouver when the bite was stolen. The 49th parallel of latitude cuts off quite a slice of Vancouver, and the British Government, in agreeing upon that boundary line, made an express stipulation that gave them the whole of it, to which our Government assented.

But Britain has a way of taking an ell when she is given an inch; and, though for a time satisfied with Vancouver, finally set up a claim for San Juan. The injustice of the claim is clear enough when we consider the principle on which the Canadian water boundary line is settled elsewhere, always following, in the case of disputed islands in rivers and straits, the deepest channel, a principle which gives us, for instance, Belle Island, opposite Detroit. Now, the Straits De Haro are the deepest channel between Vancouver and the United States, and San Juan, in consequence, justly belongs to us. The channel of Rosario Straits, which the great Britannic Pecksaiff concluded to claim as the water boundary, and which cuts of San Juan from us, has an average depth of fifty fathoms less than De Haro. Previous to 1850, we held San Juan in peace. Between that time and 1859, Great Britain cultivated a hankering after the tidy little island, till, in consequence of cold pork, in the latter year the dispute took open form, and was only pacified with patchwork.

Within a few days, an injunction-not of Barnard but of secrecy—was dissolved, and the proceedings of the Senate in executive session last April upon the proposed treaty with Great Britain for the settlement of the water-boundary line in Puget Sound were made public.

It appears to have been proposed that the distinguished President of the Swiss Confederation, whose name most unfortunately escapes us, should arbitrate between the two countries as to this water boundary. Vigorous and exhaustive speeches were made, opposing any such settlement, and the distinguished President has not yet been requested to arbitrate. The question now is, Shall the patchwork policy continue, or shall we demand our rights and prosecute the demand?

OUR BETRAYAL OF REPUBLICANISM IN SOUTH AMERICA. From the N. Y. Sun.

The attitude in which the United States has been placed by the present head of the State Department in reference to the only two questions which touch the traditional policy of this country on this continent is humiliating in the last degree. As to Cuba and the shameful efforts of Mr. Fish against the cause of independence in that island, the facts are well understood, and the opinion of the people is settled. In the case of Paraguay, however, where a little republic has battled in behalf of republican independence for five years against a colossal empire, the present action of the United States is equally disgraceful. During the continuance of this contest Mr. Fish suspended diplomatic relations with Paraguay, the weakest of the belligerents, without any other cause than the ridiculous and humiliating pretext stated in the annual message, that the war had made communication with our minister there somewhat difficult! But the fact is, that under the

nation, has not even the merit of truth. It is well known to the country, and has never been denied, that the withdrawal of our Minister from Paraguay was a piece of personal malice perpetrated by E. B. Washburne. for one week Secretary of State, to revenge a private quarrel of one of his numerous brothers. In this sweeping revenge not only President Lopez and the Paraguayan people had to suffer, but the traditional policy of our Government was to be reversed, our moral support withdrawn from the cause of republicanism in South America, and the whole weight of our official influence thrown in favor of the extension of the Brazilian Empire, and consequently of human slavery, over the whole eastern portion of that conti-

last administration we were on the point of

going to war with Brazil for the purpose of

maintaining our right of free communication

with our legation at Asuncion. Mr. Fish's

pretext, therefore, mortifying as it is to the

We still remain without a Minister in Paraguay; and notwithstanding repeated and gross indignities offered to us within the last twelve months by Brazil and her allies, our relations with those countries continue undisturbed, and their diplomatic agents in Washington are the only sources through which Mr. Fish seeks and obtains information in regard to the position and prospects of President Lopez. For it is well understood that Mr. Kirk, our present Minister to the Argentine Republic, is wholly in the interest of the Government to which he is accredited, and that he makes an open boast of his hostility to Paraguay. But even if he were impartial, he has no means of informa-

tion except such as the Government of | them. Why his return should seem a matter

Buenos Ayres allows him. Is it not time that some inquiry should be made in Congress to know what reclamation has been made upon Brazil for the plunder of our legation in Asuncion a year ago, and for the other indignities to which we have been subjected by this pretentious and arrogant empire? If the cause of republican independence in South America has to be sacrificed to General Grant's affection for the eldest Washburne, let us at least have satisfaction for the repeated insults to which we have been subjected by the Brazilian Government and its pliant tool, the Argentine

Republic. The prestige and influence of the United States in South America have been sorely damaged by the unfortunate career of Mr. Washburn while Minister in Paraguay, by the withdrawal of our Minister accredited to President Lopez, and by the present pitiful become attitude of the national administration. With man. Congress alone lies the remedy.

THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW VIRGINIA.

From the N. Y. Times. It is not difficult to be wickedly virtuous and a thousand contemptuous things are sooner said than one wise one. Certain Senators showed this out very fully, in their rage against the wayward sister Virginia, seeking to return. They exhausted upon her all the language of opprobrium—reviled her as still unrepentant, and full of fell designs. To hear their holy horror was to imagine that the moment of re-entry into the Capitol would be attended with the thunders of an earthquake, falling pillars, moaning victims, gloom, dismay, and terror, the death-shrieks of Freedom, and the eternal farewell of Hope! But the new Representatives walked quietly in, and took their oaths and their seats, There was no crisis. The January light streamed in more blandly than ever. Stillness reigned within, and gladness without. All around the Capitol was solidity and repose. And so it has continued even until

Virginia herself, which was said to be devoted to treasons and stratagems, and forever given up to all the Furies, remains equally serene. She moves back to her old place with unexceptionable dignity and grace. Her high satisfaction and good purpose have been indicated through every organ of expression. Enthusiastic popular meetings have hailed the change. The public journals of every party shade have all joined heartily in the chorus—for the first time pervaded with one common sentiment, since the sweeping rage of the Rebellion. And lastly, we have the evidence in an official shape in the language of the new Governor, Walker, who opened his recent address with the joyous exclamation, "The voice of Virginia is again heard in the national councils!" and closed it in

these patriotic strains:-"Are we not admonished by all the love we bear her, by our veneration of her past and our hopes for her future, to stand side by side and shoulder to shoulder, carnest, and, above all, united in a common effort and a common purpose to reorganize and rehabilitate the State, and to start her out once more turner the high road to glory different like the renatifiate the State, and to start her out once more upon the high road to glory, glittering like the morning star, full of life and joy? What we need in Virginia, what the nation needs to-day, is the inauguration and cultivation of a broad and catholic national spirit, unsuffied by local prejudice or selfish and sectional interest. We must not forget that we are to-day a part and parcel of the American nation. Our destinies are inseparably linked with its desti-nies. Its growth will be our growth, its advance-ment our advancement, its glory our giory. I con-fess to a strong and conscientious belief in what is popularly styled 'manifest destiny,' It is manifest to me that the future destiny of the nation points unerringly to the gradual extension of its limits until the entire continent shall have been embraced within its boundaries. And I believe that upon this same continent there is to be formed and moulded a new distinctive well-defined and grand American new, distinctive, well-defined, and grand American

No one can fail to recognize this as the spirit of the best days of Virginia-the spirit which used to animate her before she was beguiled by modern Democracy into the downward path of secession. It is every way worthy of the State which had more to do than any other with the founding of the republic, and whose fame was most closely interwoven in other days with all the glories of its history. No spirit could be more completely opposed to that which was imputed to her by the Senators who sought still to keep her in banishment. Every statement of the existing feeling in Virginia, and every prediction of her future conduct, have been utterly falsified. Never was malignant speech more ignominiously confounded.

This exemplification of the wrong and folly of harsh distrust ought to serve as a standing lesson, all through this business of reconstruction, of the good policy of liberal judgment and a generous dealing. Experience enough has now been gained to insure an early and triumphant completion of the entire work with the exercise of ordinary discernment and discretion. Every national interest and every national sentiment demands the speediest return of confidence and unity.

WANDERING WILLIE.

From the N. Y. World. Since his retirement from office, the Secretary of State who during the administration of Mr. Lincoln made so many hopeful and unfulfilled prophecies, has been a wanderer upon the surface of the earth. He has visited Alaska, and its Arctic solitudes grew warm to him as he thought of the coldness of his radical friends, who refused to nominate him for the Presidency. He tarried in California, and sought to win popularity among the much-shaken citizens of San Francisco by predicting a total cessation of all earthquakes in less than sixty days. He has dwelt in Mexico, and gained a new claim to distinction as one of the few men living who have seen the peripatetic Juarez. That emi-nent Mexican President is so constantly occupied in flying from fresh insurrec-tionary movements that Mr. Seward could hardly have met him that had he not adopted the plan of sitting quietly at Puebla, and waiting until Juarez came round. Together they smoked the cigar of peace, until the Mexicans became convinced that Mr. Seward was endeavoring to buy a few volcanoes with the view of annexing them to the American Union, and thereupon broke out into some fifteen or twenty new and independent revolutions, in order to impress Juarez with the inadvisability of permitting any of his loyal subjects to pass under the control of the great republic. And the West India islands, too, have known the gracious presence of our wan-dering Willie, who had shaken hands with Santa Anna, stood beside the tomb of Columbus, and beheld with wonder and admiration the loyal Cuban volunteers, who refrained from assassinating him only because he wore a bright yellow instead of a blue neck-tie. And now the exile returns from his wanderings by land and by sea, and is once more to plant his foot upon his native heath and mention that his name is quite as illustrious as that of McGregor. The Common Council of our noble city has determined to welcome him. They have agreed to receive him at the Academy of Music, though with what cere monies we are not informed, unless the singing in chorus of "Willie, we have you," by both boards, Mayor

Hall acting as perceptor, be one

missed

of especial moment to the aldermanic mind is also by no means clear, unless, in-deed, he has brought a new and unusually wretched pattern of pavement from the more barbarous districts of Moxico, with which to pave the Fifth avenue, in place of the late concrete abomination. However, it is perhaps a good thing to have him home once more. Here he is comparatively harmless. He can bargain for no new volcanic islands and compromise no precarious Presidents while in his hermitage at Anburn. He has rather passed beyond the age when he can travel with safety to himself or to any one else; and, should he hereafter remain quietly at home, amusing himself with the cultivation of the peaceful parsley, the contemplative cabbage, and the thoughtful turnip, wherewith the aged Diocletian busied his latter days, he will show that wisdom which becomes an aged and unappreciated states-

FITZ JOHN PORTER.

From the N. Y. Herald. The appeal of Fitz John Porter to the President of the United States for a re-examination of the proceedings of the court-martial in his case was yesterday brought up in the Senate by Mr. Chandler, who offered a reso-lution requesting the President to communicate to the Senate any recent correspondence in his possession on the subject. Mr. Chandler spoke at considerable length denunciatory of General Porter, and was followed by Mr. Wilson, who urged the propriety of granting the asked-for re-examination, after which the matter was disposed of by Mr. Chandler with-drawing his resolution. The question in its present shape seems to be very easy of solution. General Porter commanded a corps at the second battle of Bull Run, and was charged by General Pope with wilful disobedience of orders and neglect to attack the enemy, resulting in disaster to the Union army, upon which charges he was sentenced by court-martial to dismissal from the army and disqualified forever to hold any office of trust or profit under the Government of the United States. In his appeal he represents that he is in possession of important evidence, not before attainable, which will vindicate him entirely from the accusations upon which he was sentenced, and files with the petition interesting letters from general officers who were engaged on both sides in the battle referred to in corroboration of his statements. The application is also accompanied by recommendations by Senators Wilson, Sherman, Harris, and Foster, General N. P. Banks, Governor Curtin, and others for the appointment of a commission to review the case and ascertain whether or not injustice has been done.

Almost innumerable instances are on record of the re-examination of court-martial proceedings since the war, many of which resulted in the vindication of the officers under sentence and their restoration to command; and, in view of the high rank held by General Porter at the time of his trial, his faithful and distinguished services down to the date of his alleged offense, the positive character of his statements in his appeal, and the recommendations for a review of his case, it seems to be eminently fit and proper that his application should be granted. Now that the jealousies and animosities of the war have early if not quite all subsided, a commission of perfectly disinterested officers would undoubtedly be able to thoroughly investigate every circumstance involved in the case, and their verdict would finally settle all doubts on this much disputed question. If such a commission were to confirm the sentence of the court-martial, it would serve to augment the gnominy of the alleged offense and be a conspicuous warning for the future; while, if the nnocence of the accused were to be established, it would not only make reparation for a grievous wrong, but gratify the whole people, who never knowingly acquiesce in the perpetration of injustice. General Porter asserts that he is able to prove that his conduct during the second Bull Run campaign was entirely in accordance with his duty as a soldier, and there seems no good reason why his request for an opportunity to prove his innocence, urged as it is by distinguished statesmen, should be denied when there are so many precedents for the reinvestigation.

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Steamships of this line will leave Pier
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Delaware and Raritan Canal, SWIFTSURE
TRANSPORTATION COMPANY.—DESPATCH AND SWIFTSURE LINE.
The business of these lines will be resumed on and after
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